

Van Meter News

CITY OF VAN METER

May 2016

Elected Officials:

-Allan Adams, Mayor

Council Members—

-Kim Sacker,
Mayor Pro Tem

-Lyndon Lyon

-Michael Peterson

-Owen Stump

-Elizabeth Tweed

City Staff:

City Hall -
515-996-2644

Jake Anderson-
City Administrator
Liz Thompson-Clerk

David Herman-
Public Works
515-240-9280

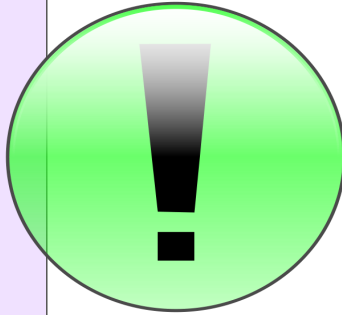
Chad Gillespie-
Public Works
515-371-9933

Bill Daggett-Police Chief
515-202-4154

Officer Erik Faust
515-705-8657
Dispatch: 515-993-4567
Emergency—911

Jon Bruen, Fire Chief
515-996-9253

Dorothy Knight-
Library Director
515-996-2435



You can now view your account and pay your bill online.

Visit our website at vanmeteria.gov and click on the "Pay Bill" tab. You will need the account information from your bill to set up an account.

Raccoon River Days! June 5, 6, 7



Planning is underway! The theme for this years festivities is **Get In The Game!** Grand Marshals this year are from the 1946 Van Meter School Championship team. Sam Walters, second baseman and Bill Lieneman, pitcher/outfielder.

Feel free to email or call Becca Wiederholt at 515-210-2848 if you are interested in helping with the planning of the event.

Things to look forward to this year—

- Little Mr. & Miss Van Meter, BBQ cook-off, Live Music, FIREWORKS!
- Sand volleyball, 3 on 3 basketball, softball
- The parade, inflatables, BINGO, fun and games!
- LOTS of family fun!

An all around great time!!

WWW.VANMETERIA.GOV

VISIT THE CITY WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE FOR UPDATES!

Saturday, May 7

Garage Sale Day!! Why not start your spring cleaning by having a Garage Sale? Move out some of those "treasures" in the garage, basement and closets!!! The Annual Community Garage Sale Day will be **Saturday, May 7 from 8am to 2pm.** **All** sites are requested to register and pay \$5.00 which helps defray the cost of advertising and printing maps. All registered will be entered into a drawing for a free floral hanging basket.

Plant Sale!! For those that ordered plants from the park board, they will be available for pick up on **Saturday, May 7 between 8am and 2pm.** If you did not order in advance, there will be extras available for purchase the day of the sale. Pickup at the City Maintenance Building (just west of Casey's). Just in time for Mother's Day!!!

Memorial Day

**The Van Meter Post 403
Women's Legion Auxiliary**

**Invite you to join us
for free refreshments at the
Van Meter
American Legion Post 403
Reception Center
910 Main St.
Van Meter, IA 50261**

**Following the
Memorial Day Ceremony
at the Van Meter
Iowa Veteran's Cemetery**

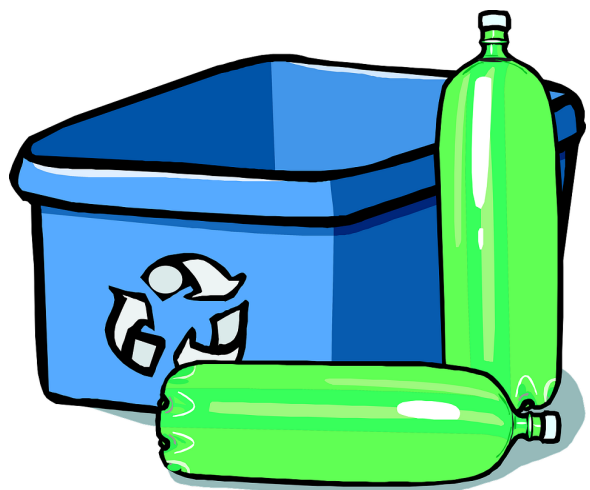
8:00am - 10:00am

MAY RECYCLING SCHEDULE

Monday, May 2

Monday, May 16

Monday, May 30



May 2016

Trees for Kids Program

Van Meter will be participating in the Trees for Kids Seedling program offering 8-16" tree seedlings free of charge to anyone interested in planting a tree on their property. Seedlings can be picked up at the Plant Sale on Saturday, May 7 at the City Maintenance Building. The four seedlings available are listed below. Call Alex Brayton at (515) 996-4353 with any questions!



RIVER BIRCH



SILVER MAPLE

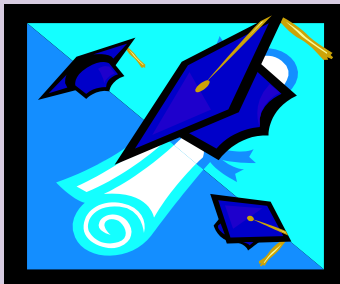


RED OAK



WHITE SPRUCE

VM



CONGRATULATIONS!

Van Meter

Class of 2016

**Best Wishes in your
future endeavors!**



Austin Cox, Connor Corcoran, Isaac Benton, and Ben Trent recently held their Eagle Court of Honor Ceremony at the American Legion. For their Eagle projects they were responsible for leading and coordinating a service project. All chose to do a project within and around the city of Van Meter. Austin orchestrated a canoe clean up of the Raccoon River and its banks, Connor and Isaac designed and constructed a handicapped accessible flag burning fire pit and apron at the American Legion for flag burning ceremonies, and Ben Trent refurbished and updated the disc golf course at Johnson Park.



LIBRARY NEWS—CHECK IT OUT!!

Phone: 515-996-2435

Become a Friend of the Library!

The Friends' Foundation is 501c3 nonprofit that supports the library by fundraising to help purchase items for the collection, materials for programs - like Summer Reading and the programs you see here and more! The Friends' group meets 4 times a year and hosts the annual book sale for the library.

It only takes a little effort to make a big impact for your community!

Hours

Mon./Wed./Fri.: 9-5 PM

Tue./Thur.: 12-8 PM

Sat.: 9-12 PM

**ON YOUR MARK,
GET SET...
READ!**



Summer Reading—Here's the Scoop!

Summer Reading begins May 23rd with our Kickoff event on Saturday, June 4th, during Raccoon River Days.

People everywhere share a passion for play. This summer, we will explore sports, games, and movement through books, activities, science, art, and more. Challenge yourself, try new things, and most of all have fun!

How it works:

Sign-up and grab a reading-log starting May 23rd! You can get one online, in person at the library, or just stop by between 9-1pm June 4th during Raccoon River Days. The program goes for 8 weeks, and the last day to turn in logs for prizes is July 16th.

Reading-logs are available for all ages and reading levels. They are minute based, with bonuses and special challenges you can complete to get ahead in the game! Prizes will be given out for reaching the half-way point, and a finisher prize for completing the entire log—Plus, your completed log gets you an entry into the Grand Prize Drawing!

Reading is a Team Effort!

The Summer Reading program is for everyone to enjoy, and it's more fun when the whole family gets involved!

Library Book Club

Every 3rd Tuesday the library hosts a book discussion. This month we will be reading "A Visit from the Goon Squad" by Jennifer Egan, May 17th at 7pm.

From the publisher: "Bennie is an aging former punk rocker and record executive. Sasha is the passionate, troubled young woman he employs. Egan brilliantly reveals their pasts, along with the inner lives of a host of other characters whose paths intersect with theirs. With music pulsing on every page, it is a startling, exhilarating novel of self-destruction and redemption."

Early-out Movies:

As school is coming to a close, so will our early-out movies! But don't worry, we will be showing lots of fun movies during summer reading, so lookout for what's coming in June! May 6th, 13th, and 20th @ 1:45 PM the library will show a different movie on the big screen! Popcorn and refreshments will be served.

Color Happy

Come experience the new adult coloring and relaxation program Monday, May 16th, at 5:30 PM. Coloring pages and colored pencils will be provided, or you can bring your own. Tea and coffee will be served.

NUISANCES

Spring has sprung... Life is good! Things to consider this spring...

City codes regulates “nuisances.”

Definition of Nuisance: Whatever is injurious to health, indecent, or unreasonably offensive to the senses, or an obstruction to the free use of property so as essentially to interfere unreasonably with the comfortable enjoyment of life or property is a nuisance.

Nuisance Abatement: Whenever the Mayor or other authorized municipal officer finds that a nuisance exists, such officer shall cause to be served upon the property owner a written notice to abate the nuisance within a reasonable time after notice.

City officials will be more diligent in enforcing these ordinances.

A nuisance can be “junk” and/or the accumulation of “junk.”

“Junk” means all old or scrap copper, brass, lead, or any other non-ferrous metal; old or discarded rope, rags, batteries, paper, trash, rubber, debris, waste or used lumber, or salvaged wood; dismantled vehicles, machinery and appliances or parts of such vehicles, machinery or appliances; iron, steel or other old or scrap ferrous materials; old or discarded glass, tinware, plastic or old or discarded household goods or hardware. Neatly stacked firewood located on a side yard or a rear yard is not considered junk.

It is unlawful for any person to store, accumulate, or allow to remain on any private property within the corporate limits of the City any junk or junk vehicles.

Also addressed in the nuisance section of the code are junk vehicles, noise control, animal protection and control, and dangerous and illegal animals.

In part, the dog ordinance prohibits an owner to allow a dog to run at large within the corporate limits of the City. It is unlawful for the owner of an animal to allow or permit such animal to pass upon the premises of another thereby causing damage to, or interference with, the premises.

It is unlawful for the owner or custodian of a dog to permit barking or any other noise excessively, continuously, or intermittently, for any unreasonable period of time so as to create an annoyance or disturbance of any person at any time of day or night.

WEEDS AND BRUSH. Dense growth of all weeds, vines, brush or other vegetation in the City can constitute a health, safety or fire hazard. Unless a variance is allowed by resolution of the Council pursuant to 53.05, weeds, brush, or other uncultivated plants, except trees, shall be cut, mowed and maintained so as to not exceed the heights set forth specifically in this Chapter.

Any property within the City, other than property used and taxed as Agricultural, whether vacated or non-vacated, is required to be mowed prior to the vegetation reaching a height of ten inches (10"). Once the vegetation has reached the height of ten inches (10") or twenty-four inches (24"), the City will arrange to mow the property at the property owner's expense.

Property used and taxed as Agricultural is exempt from this chapter's height and mowing requirements.

Any property which is not mowed may be mowed by the City or their agents, and a charge of \$75.00 per hour, (with a minimum of one (1) hour, and any additional time over the first hour will be billed in half-hour increments), for such mowing, plus an administrative surcharge of \$100.00, will be charged to the property owner. Any property owner who fails to mow their property, thus allowing the same to be mowed by the City or their agents, and who do not provide payment for the mowing as required, will be assessed by the City for such costs, which will be collected in the same manner as general property taxes.

Full copies of these codes can be found at City Hall or on our website at www.vanmeteria.gov.



310 MILL STREET
PO BOX 160
VAN METER IA 50261
Phone: 515-996-2644
E-mail: info@vanmeteria.gov



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Van Meter
on Facebook!**

MEMORIAL DAY

City offices will be **closed** on Monday, May 30th for Memorial Day. That includes the following: City Hall, the Public Library and Public Works.

CEMETERY RULES AND REGS

Pursuant to Municipal Code 115.05:

The following information is a partial list of rules and regulations. Please visit our website at www.vanmeteria.gov for a complete list of the rules and regulations found under the cemetery sections.

Summary of Rules and Regulations:

Pets, food, and firearms, other than those carried by police officers or used in military honor funeral services, shall be prohibited in the cemetery.

No person shall drive any vehicle within the cemetery except upon the driveways prepared and designed for that purpose, and such vehicles shall not be operated in excess of the posted speed limit of 10 mph. Driving on the grass, walks, and alleys is prohibited with the exception of maintenance personnel.

It shall be unlawful for any person to desecrate or injure the cemetery, or any lot, grave, gravestone, monument, fence, tree or shrubbery therein.

General care is assumed by the City and includes the cutting and watering of grass, debris removal, fertilization, and periodic pruning of shrubs and trees.

Grave decorations of all kinds will be removed when in the judgment of maintenance personnel they do not conform to the decorum of the cemetery.

Holiday decorations are permitted, but must be removed thirty days after the holiday. Decorations may be removed and disposed of by cemetery personnel.

The planting or placing of shrubbery, plants, flowers, or grass is prohibited as is the placement of trees.

No coping or fence of any kind shall be permitted.

It is prohibited for cremains to be scattered in the cemetery; or buried without the City's permission and notification.

City staff may handle the placement of cremains upon the request of the family at a fee of \$150 and said fee is established by resolution.

Only a contractor approved by the city shall perform the opening and closing at any gravesite

Lots shall be sold by the city clerk at the established price set by resolution adopted by the City Council. The city clerk shall issue a deed to the purchaser upon payment of the purchase price.

An owner of a space in the cemetery may only transfer his or her space to a relative by blood or marriage. Documentation shall be submitted to the city clerk for recording.

The City may purchase a space from an owner at the purchase price, and said space shall be made available to the general public and previous deed voided.